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3682  
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4-22-02

April 9, 2002

Amita J. Malo  
SIGNATURE

4-9-02  
DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Dominik Schutz  
Serial No. : 10/083,079  
Filing Date : February 26, 2002  
For **RECEIVED** : VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL  
**APR 19 2002**  
Art Unit : 3682  
**GROUP 3600**  
Examiner : Not Assigned  
Attorney Docket : TRW(ASG)6052

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97 and \$1.98, and in compliance with CFR \$1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☒ Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR \$1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - 1) ☐ A certification is given below,
  - 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in \$1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
  - 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.
  - 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) \$180, or
  - 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR \$1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

- (1) ☒ Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**Patent No.**

**Relevance**

DE 196 30 725 A1

See attached English abstract.

DE 298 05 207 U1

Corresponds to Pending U.S. Bohn et al. Patent Application Serial No. 09/939,173, filed August 24, 2001, entitled STEERING WHEEL WITH INTEGRATED GAS BAG, Attorney Docket No. TRW(ASG)4333-1.

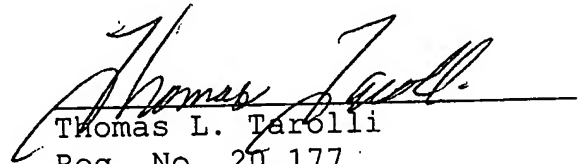
DE 299 18 481 U1

Discloses a gas bag module incorporated in a steering wheel. The module is provided with a pivoted switch 13 (see Figs. 1, 3) which is able to pivot in outward direction upon activation of the gas bag, in order to free the unfolding path of the gas bag.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Pending U.S. Bohn et al. Patent Application Serial  
No. 09/939,173, filed August 24, 2001 entitled STEERING WHEEL  
WITH INTEGRATED GAS BAG, Attorney Docket No. TRW(ASG)4333-1.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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